

HOUSE LEADERSHIP FAILS AGAIN TO ASSIST LONGTERM UNEMPLOYED

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to believe that once again, the House of Representatives is leaving Washington without passing an Unemployment Assistance extension bill that could be in effect by the time we return next Tuesday.

The Senate has passed the extension bill several times. But the House Republican leadership refuses to take that bill and send it to the President for signature—unless it is loaded up with unjustified and very detrimental tax cuts for the most affluent Americans and corporations., a bill that the Wall Street Journal declared “mainly padded corporate bottom lines.”

And so, once again, Congress leaves Washington without doing its job for the men and women who send us here to represent them and whose taxes pay our salaries.

That may not be very important to our Republican leaders who run this House. But it surely is important to the 378,000 working men and women who filed new unemployment claims last week who wonder if extended benefits will be there for them when their meager weeks run out, as they have for over 1 million Americans between September 11 and December 31, 2001 and 11,000 more every day of this year!

When we left Washington without passing extended benefits for the President's Day recess, over a quarter million Americans lost their unemployment benefits. By the time we return next week after being gone for nearly five full days, another 55,000 left high and dry by this Congress and by the Republican leadership that uses them, and their suffering, as leverage for fat cat tax breaks.

Mr. Speaker, where is the compassion of the Republican leadership? Why can we not have a straight up-or-down vote on the Senate's bill to extend unemployment benefits as we have been urged to do by 9 Nobel laureates who say these benefits are the quickest and surest stimulus we could enact? Let's stop the political gamesmanship, get the assistance to the men and women who paid for it with their labor, and then we can continue the debate over tax cuts for the wealthy.

ON THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF HADASSAH

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, in 1912, Henrietta Szold founded the Daughters of Zion, an organization to meet the health needs of Jews and Arabs in what is now the modern State of Israel. Soon renamed Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, it has grown to be not only the largest Jewish organization in America, but also the largest women's organization. I rise today to pay tribute to Hadassah and all of the wonderful accomplishments of its ninety-year history.

Today, Henrietta Szold's vision lives on. With more than 300,000 members and 1,500 chapters across the country, Hadassah is stronger than ever. While best known for the Hadassah Medical Organization, which is synonymous with expert medical care, Hadassah has expanded its services greatly to help so many people across the globe.

From preventing the spread of AIDS in Africa to helping at-risk teens in Russia, Ethiopia and Israel, the women of Hadassah continue to serve the world community in addition to helping American teens develop their Jewish spiritual identity.

The great accomplishments of Hadassah were recognized last year when Hadassah gained special consultative status as a non-governmental organization with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. This enables Hadassah to participate more fully in international deliberations over medical research and treatment, immigrant absorption, refugee welfare and the status of women and children—all the areas in which Hadassah has earned its reputation for expertise.

I congratulate the Women of Hadassah for reaching this milestone, and I commend them for their many wonderful accomplishments during the past ninety years.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARDS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize five outstanding young women from Illinois' 8th District. Sarah Desprat, Kristen Rusek, Katherine Swanson, Julie Zielinski and Shauna Marie Zivin all will receive the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

Only 6 percent of Girl Scouts nationwide receive this award. According to the Girl Scouts, the requirements for the Gold Award include efficient organization, time management, and leadership skills resulting in a 50-hour community service project.

I am glad to see the hard work, dedication and commitment of these Girl Scouts are being recognized with this honor. I am proud to represent such fine young women and pass along my congratulations.

CONGRATULATING TEMPLE BETH EL OF SAN MATEO ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to congratulate Temple Beth El of San Mateo California, in my Congressional district, on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

In 1950 the San Francisco peninsula was experiencing an extraordinary growth spurt. Young families were reunited with soldiers returning from the war and began purchase homes with their G.I. loans. This resulted in the rapid growth of the Bay Area. One result

of this growth was that public facilities could not meet the demand of the population explosion, and schools were required to have double session to accommodate all the new children. At the time there was only one Jewish institution housed in its own building on the Peninsula at a small synagogue in Menlo Park. Although members of the Congregations Sherith Israel and Temple Emanu-El were co-sponsoring a religious school for their children, the schooling took place at a Seventh Day Adventist Church, because the congregations did not have the necessary building space for a religious school.

In order to accommodate their expanding numbers concerned parents met on a Monday evening in October of 1950, calling themselves the “Board of Directors of the Peninsula Temple Congregation.” Their focus that evening was to create a facility for Jewish learning and worship on the peninsula. From that first night, it was obvious that this group of dedicated individuals would be a success. They elected officers, organized themselves and took the first steps towards their exciting journey that very first night. Soon they had hired a Rabbi and chose a name; Peninsula Temple Beth El.

Mr. Speaker, over its fifty years Temple Beth El has grown from a few families to a congregation made up of over 700 families numbering more than 3,000 people. Their religious school has become a model of programming followed by other congregations in California and the rest of the country. Today over 600 children receive a quality Jewish education in Beth El's religious school. Two years ago the Gannon Day Care center was named the number one child-care facility on the Peninsula.

In addition to providing excellent religious institutions for their children, the members of Temple Beth El sponsor numerous programs aimed at enriching the spiritual lives of adult members. They were one of the first congregations in California to establish a Havurah—a traditional Jewish prayer group. Members of Temple Beth El are also actively fulfilling their obligations to be involved in social justice. From preparing food for the homeless at the Samaritan House in San Mateo, to collecting donations for numerous charities, serving as tutors for literacy programs in public schools, the members of Temple Beth El are extraordinary examples of selflessness and giving back to their community.

Mr. Speaker, after fifty years Temple Beth of San Mateo remains a vigorous, exciting and expanding congregation. Despite its growth it has remained committed to the core goal—to provide a place for Jewish worship and Jewish education and to nurture Jewish Life on the Peninsula. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in commending Temple Beth El of San Mateo on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, and wish its members continued success for the future.

OPENING OF SLOVAK CONSULATE IN MIAMI FLORIDA AND 50TH AN- NIVERSARY OF SLOVAK GARDEN

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the official opening in Miami, Florida of